

OBN

contract, which has rendered them part of the Devil's possession, and contrive how they may obliterate that reproach, and disentangle their mortgaged souls. *Decay of Piety.*

These simple ideas, the understanding can no more refuse to have, or alter, or blot them out, than a mirror can refuse, alter, or obliterate the images, which the objects set before it produce. *Locke.*

OBLETATION. *n. f.* [obliteration, Latin.] Effacement; extinction.

Considering the casualties of wars, transigrations, especially that of the general flood, there might probably be an obliteration of all those monuments of antiquity that ages precede at some time have yielded. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

OBLETION. *n. f.* [oblivion, Latin.] Oblivion.

1. Forgetfulness; cessation of remembrance.

Water-drops have worn the stones of Troy,

And blind oblivion swallow'd cities up,

And mighty states characterless are graced

To dusty nothing. *Shaksp. Troil. and Cressida.*

Thou shouldst have heard many things of worthy memory,

which now shall die in oblivion, and thou return unexperienced

to thy grave. *Shaksp. Taming of the Shrew.*

Knowledge is made by oblivion, and to purchase a clear

and warrantable body of truth, we must forget and part with

much we know. *Brown's Vulgar Err. Pref.*

Can they imagine, that God has therefore forgot their

sins, because they are not willing to remember them? Or

will they measure his pardon by their own oblivion. *South.*

Among our crimes oblivion may be set;

But 'tis our king's perfection to forget. *Dryden.*

2. Amnely; general pardon of crimes in a state.

By the act of oblivion, all offences against the crown, and

all particular trespasses between subject and subject, were pardoned,

remitted, and utterly extinguished. *Darwin.*

OBVIOUS. *adj.* [obvious, Latin.] Causing forgetfulness.

Raze out the written troubles of the brain,

And with some sweet oblivious antidote

Cleanse the stuff'd bosom. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

The British souls

Exult to see the crowding ghosts descend

Unnumber'd; well aveng'd, they quit the cares

Of mortal life, and drink th' oblivious lake. *Philips.*

Oh born to see what none can see awake!

Behold the wonders of th' oblivious lake. *Pope's Dunci.*

OBLONG. *adj.* [oblong, Fr. oblongus, Latin.] Longer than

square.

The best figure of a garden I esteem an oblong upon a descent.

Every particle, supposing them globular or not very oblong,

would be above nine million times their own length from any

other particle. *Bentley's Sermon.*

OBLOGLY. *adv.* [from oblong.] In an oblong direction.

The surface of the temperate climates is larger than it

would have been, had the globe of our earth or of the planets,

been either spherical, or oblongly spheroidal. *Cheyne.*

OBLOQUY. *n. f.* [obloquy, Lat.] The state of being oblong.

1. Cenurious speech; blame; slander; reproach.

Reasonable moderation hath freed us from being deservedly

subject unto that bitter kind of obloquy, whereby as the church

of Rome doth, under the colour of love towards those things

which be harmless, maintain extremely most hurtful corruptions;

so we peradventure might be upbraided, that under

colour of hatred towards those things that are corrupt, we are

on the other side as extreme, even against most harmless

ordinances. *Hobbes, b. iv. f. 14.*

Here new aspersions, with new obloquies,

Are laid on old defects. *Daniel's Civil War.*

Canst thou with impious obloquy condemn

The just decree of God, pronounc'd and sworn? *Milton.*

Shall names that made your city the glory of the earth, be

mentioned with obloquy and detraction? *Addison.*

Every age might perhaps produce one or two true genius,

if they were not sunk under the censure and obloquy of plod-

ding, servile, imitating pedants. *Swift.*

2. Cause of reproach; disgrace. Not proper.

My chastity's the jewel of our house,

Bequeathed down from many ancestors;

Which were the greatest obloquy it's world

In me to lose. *Shakespeare's All's well that ends well.*

OBMUTESCENCE. *n. f.* [from obmutescere, Latin.] Loss of speech.

A vehement fear often produceth obmutescences. *Brown.*

OBNOXIUS. *n. f.* [obnoxius, Latin.]

1. Subject.

I propound a character of justice in a middle form, between

the speculative discourses of philosophers, and the

writings of lawyers, which are tied and obnoxious to their

particular laws. *Bacon's Holy War.*

2. Liable to punishment.

OBS

All are obnoxious, and this faulty land,
Like fainting Hesper, does before you stand,
Watching your sceptre. *Waller.*

We know ourselves obnoxious to God's severe justice, and that

he is a God of mercy and hatred sin; and therefore that we

might not have the least suspicion of his unwillingness to forgive,

he hath sent his only begotten son into the world, by

his dismal sufferings and cursed death, to expiate our offences. *Calamy's Sermon.*

Thy name, O Varus, if the kinder power

Preserve our plains, and shield the Mantuan tow'rs,

Obnoxious by Cremona's neighb'ring crime,

The wings of swans, and stronger pinion'd rhyme

Shall raise aloft. *Dryden.*

3. Liable; exposed.

Long hostility had made their friendship weak in itself,

and more obnoxious to jealousies and distrusts. *Hayward.*

But what will not ambition and revenge

Defend to? who aspires, must down as low

As high he soar'd; obnoxious first or last,

To base things. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

To dew obnoxious on the grassy floor.

OBNOXIUSNESS. *n. f.* [from obnoxius.] Subjection; liability

to punishment.

OBNOXIUSLY. *adv.* [from obnoxius.] In a state of subjection;

in the state of one liable to punishment.

TO OBNUBIATE. *v. a.* [obnubilo, Latin.] To cloud; to

obscure.

O'hole. *n. f.* [olulus, Lat.] In pharmacy, twelve grains. *Atty.*

OBREPTION. *n. f.* [obreptio, Latin.] The act of creeping on.

TO OBROGATE. *v. a.* [obrogo, Lat.] To proclaim a contrary

law for the dissolution of the former. *Dia.*

OBSCENE. *adj.* [obscene, Fr. obscenus, Latin.]

1. Immodest; not agreeable to chastity of mind; causing low

ideas.

Chemos th' obscene dread of Moab's sons. *Milton.*

Words that were once chaste, by frequent use grow obscene

and uncleanly. *Waller's Epitaph.*

2. Offensive; disgusting.

A girdle foul with grease binds his obscene attire. *Dryden.*

Home as they went, the sad discourse renew'd,

Of the relentless dame to death purld.

And of the fight obscene to lately view'd. *Dryden.*

3. Inauspicious; ill omened.

Care shuns thy walks, as at the cheerful light

The groaning ghosts, and birds obscene take flight. *Dryden.*

It is the sun's late like your's, to be displeasing to oaks

and obscene animals, who cannot bear his lustre. *Pope's Lett.*

OBSCENELY. *adv.* [from obscene.] In an impure and unchaste

manner.

OBSCENESS. *n. f.* [obscenitas, Fr. from obscene.] Impurity of

thought or language; unchastity; lewdness.

Mr. Cowley asserts plainly, that obscenity has no place in

wit. *Dryden.*

Those fables were tempered with the Italian severity, and

free from any note of infamy or obscenity. *Dryden.*

Thou art wickedly devout,

In Tiber ducking thrice by break of day,

To wash th' obscenity of night away. *Dryden.*

No pardon vile obscenity should find,

Tho' wit and art conspire to move your mind. *Pope.*

OBSCURATION. *n. f.* [obscuration, Lat.]

1. The act of darkening.

As to the sun and moon, their obscuration or change of

colour happens commonly before the eruption of a fiery mountain.

Burnet.

2. A state of being darkened.

OBSCURE. *adj.* [obscurus, Fr. obscurus, Latin.]

1. Dark; unlightened; gloomy, hindring light.

Who's curst his father or mother, his lamp shall be put

out in obscure darkness. *Prov. xx. 20.*

Who shall tempt with wand'ring feet

The dark unbottom'd infinite abyss,

And thro' the palpable obscure find out

His uncouth way? *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

2. Living in the dark.

The obscure bird clamour'd the live-long night. *Shaksp.*

3. Not easily intelligible; abstruse; difficult.

I explain some of the most obscure passages, and those

which are most necessary to be understood, and this according

to the manner wherein he us'd to express himself. *Dryden.*

4. Not noted; not observable.

He says, that he is an obscure person; one, I suppose, that

is in the dark. *Amory.*

TO OBSCURE. *v. a.* [obscurus, Latin.]

1. To darken; to make dark.

Sudden the thunder blackens all the skies,

And the winds whistle, and the furies roll

Mountains on mountains, and obscure the pole. *Pope.*

2. To

OBS

2. To make less visible.

They are all couched in a pit hard by Herne's oak, with

obscured lights; which at the very instant of Falstaff's and

our meeting, they will at once display to the night. *Shaksp.*

What must I hold a candle to my flames?

They in themselves, good sooth, are too, too light.

Why, 'tis an office of discovery, love, *Shaksp. M. of Venice.*

And I should be oblig'd to obscure himself from God,

Thinking by this retirement to obscure himself from God,

he infringed the omniscience and essential ubiquity of his

maker. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

3. To make less intelligible.

By private content it hath been used in dangerous times

to obscure writing, and make it hard to be read by others not

acquainted with the intrigue. *Holder.*

There is scarce any duty which has been so obscured by the

writings of learned men, as this. *Wake.*

4. To make less glorious, beautiful, or illustrious.

Think! thou, vain spirit, thy glories are the same,

And feast not in obscure thy godlike fame?

I know thee not what thy faded looks did hide. *Dryden.*

That shows me what thy faded looks did hide.

OBSCURELY. *adv.* [from obscure.]

1. Not brightly; not luminously.

2. Out of sight; privately; without notice; not conspicuously.

Such was the rise of this prodigious fire,

Which in mean buildings first obscurely bred,

From thence did soon to open streets aspire. *Dryden.*

There live retir'd,

Content thyself to be obscurely good. *Addison's Cato.*

Let him go, purified by silent wrath,

Meet unexpected daggers in his way,

And in some distant land obscurely die. *Irene.*

3. Not clearly; not plainly.

OBSCURITIES. *n. f.* [obscuritas, Lat. obscuritas, Fr.]

Obscurity. *n. f.* [obscuritas, Lat. obscuritas, Fr.]

1. Darkness; want of light.

Lo! a day of darkness and obscurity, tribulation and an-

guish, upon the earth. *Esther xi. 8.*

Should Cynthia quit thee, Venus, and each star,

It would not form one thought dark as mine are:

I could lend them obscurity now, and lay,

Out of myself there should be no more day. *Donne.*

2. Unnoticed state; privacy.

You are not for obscurity design'd,

But, like the sun, must cheer all human kind. *Dryden.*

3. Darkened of meaning.

Not to mention that obscurity that attends prophetic rap-

tures, there are divers things knowable by the bare light of

nature, which yet are so uneasy to be satisfactorily understood

by our imperfect intellects, that let them be delivered in the

clearest expressions, the notions themselves will yet appear

obscure. *Boyle on Colours.*

That this part of sacred scripture had difficulties in it:

many causes of obscurity did readily occur to me. *Locke.*

What lies beyond our positive idea towards infinity, lies

in obscurity, and has the undetermined confusion of a nega-

tive idea, wherein I know I do not comprehend all I would,

it being too large for a finite capacity. *Locke.*

OBSCURATION. *n. f.* [obscuratio, from obscurus, Lat.] Intrac-

suplication.

That these were comprehended under the sacra, is mani-

fest from the old form of obscuration. *Stillingfleet.*

OBSEQUIES. *n. f.* [obseques, French.] I know not whether

this word be not anciently mistaken for exequies, exequies,

Latin: this word, however, is apparently derived from ob-

sequium. *Sidney, b. ii.*

1. Funeral rites; funeral solemnities.

There was Dorilus valiantly requiring his friends help, in

a great battle deprived of life, his obsequies being not more

solemnized by the tears of his partakers, than the blood of

his enemies. *Sidney, b. ii.*

Fair Juliet, that with angels dost remain,

Accept this latest favour at my hand;

That living honour'd thee, and being dead,

With funeral obsequies adorn thy tomb. *Shaksp.*

These tears are my sweet Rutland's obsequies.